

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a personal interview with Mr. Jeffrey Weiss on April 21, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows (*see marked-up copy attached*):

In Claim 1, line 2, the term "oriented continuous" has been changed to "stretched". The term "continuous and " has been inserted after the term "balloon is" on line 2.

In Claim 5, line 2, "oriented" has been changed to "stretched".

In Claim 7, line 1, "claim 1" has been changed to "claim 1 or 5".

Claim 11 has been re-written as follows: "The catheter balloon of claim 1 having a wall thickness that is less than a wall thickness of a polymer tube from which the catheter balloon is formed."

In Claim 13, "claim 11" has been changed to "claim 1" on line 1, and the term "wherein the compliance curve is" has been changed to "having".

Claims 14-17 have been cancelled.

In Claim 18, "claim 11" has been changed to "claim 1" on line 1.

In Claim 19, "claim 11" has been changed to "claim 1" on line 1.

Claim 36 has been cancelled.

Claim 38 has been cancelled.

In Claim 39, the term "continuous" has been inserted after "shrunk" on line 1; the term "continuous" on line 3 has been deleted; the term "to impart axial orientation" on line 4 has been deleted; the term "continuous" has been inserted after "forming a" on line 5; and the term "oriented" on line 7 has been changed to "stretched".

Claim 43 has been cancelled.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art Colone (USPN 7,465,483) teaches a radially expandable, paste extruded, stretched, sintered, pre-dilated tubular PTFE material suitable for use in the medical field as liners and covers attached to expandable stents, wherein the tubular material is formed by extruding a PTFE paste into a tube, longitudinally stretching the tube to impart axial orientation, expanding the tube utilizing a balloon catheter to pre-dilate the tube, and then heating the pre-dilated tube or balloon while longitudinally restraining the tube thereby radially shrinking the axially oriented tubular balloon. Colone however teaches that the resulting tube is porous having a microstructure characterized by nodes interconnected by fibrils and hence teaches away from the instantly claimed continuous structure of Claims 1 and 39. Colone also fails to teach or suggest that the polymer tube is formed from a crosslinked polymer as in instant claim 5.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monique R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571-272-1508. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays, 10:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Callie Shosho can be reached on 571-272-1123. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Monique R Jackson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1787
April 26, 2010